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*Re Sullivan, Neil V.
CIA 2-04
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Editorials

Great Society Can Afford It

DR. NEIL V. SULLIVAN, the Berkeley school superintendent, is bitterly critical of the Johnson Administration for signaling a cutback on the "Great Society's" commitment of funds for compensatory education. Compensatory education is a special-effort, booster-shot kind of program designed for academically behindhand children from low-income neighborhoods.

Sullivan observed that it's obvious the Johnson Administration has made a decision: "We aren't changing our commitments we made in Vietnam, and we are changing the commitments we've made to children through education."

He said he'd been advised that next year's presidential budget will yield only about 85 per cent of the amount authorized for the current school year's compensatory program. This cutback will cost Berkeley's schools \$75,000 and San Francisco's \$525,000. Sullivan recalls that last summer, when the White House conference on education was reaping attention the President personally encouraged educators to hope for an increase in funds for compensatory education.

IT HAS LATELY BECOME obvious that President Johnson is drawing in his horns on Great Society programs while he scratches for more for Vietnam. And while we have no quarrel with his warning last Friday against trying to go "too far, too fast" on these programs or with his advice that maintaining "equilibrium" is important, still a 15 per cent reduction on funds for the grade-school training of the least advanced urban Negro youngsters is not maintaining equilibrium; it is not going too far too fast, it is going backward. And that is tragic.

Somehow the Johnson Administration should find the money to keep well thought out, well staffed projects like compensatory education going at an unhindered rate. The country can afford it. ~~We recommend to the President that, instead of shortchanging education, he scrape the CIA's half billion dollar barrel for the needed funds. Cutting back the CIA would leave the nation safer and in higher respect, and it would usefully diminish the agency's expense account for prostituting universi-~~